



## Flathead National Forest

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### Media Release

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## Flathead National Forest Engineer Earns Regional Recognition

KALISPELL, MT - Flathead National Forest (FNF) Engineer Shawn Boelman was recently selected as the Northern Region Managerial Engineer of the Year. Boelman serves as the Assistant Forest Engineer on the FNF. The Northern Region area encompasses 25 million acres and is spread over 5 states. Flathead National Forest Supervisor Chip Weber says, "Shawn works every day to make this forest a better place while also keeping an eye on the horizon towards making the Forest Service a better resource for the nation."

Shawn joined the Forest Service in 2003 after working for the Bureau of Reclamation in New Mexico and Billings. He is a key senior leader and Program Manager who is trusted and respected by subordinates, peers and supervisors. Boelman has led a wide range of engineering innovations while assigned to the FNF. He used a variety of efficient contracting methodologies to get timely and well-executed work out to the forest in an era of limited resources and much oversight.

Boelman led an engineering team on an aggressive American Recovery and Reinvestment Act construction program on more than 10 million dollars worth of construction projects ranging from resurfacing 100 miles of Hungry Horse Reservoir roads and upgrading campgrounds, to renovating the Swan Lake Campground and resurfacing the Jewel Basin and Griffin Creek roads. On smaller scale projects, he led his team on experimental efforts to manage the dust abatement and the wear and wash-boarding resistance of the Tally Lake access road.

He has actively developed his own staff, looking to future training and education requirements and programs to grow new members of the team and ensure senior members remain challenged and continue to develop as subject matter experts. Shawn, his wife Amy, and two young children are also active members of the community. They are involved in supporting many, summer and winter youth sports activities and Shawn is a Helena Flats School Board Trustee.

Boelman will receive the award in March during an annual Region 1 engineering meeting. For additional information, contact Engineering and Administration Staff Officer Gary Danczyk at 406-758-5268.

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Editors Note: A photo is available upon request.